



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 734- 8732 ext. 3 ~ fax (559) 732-2805

February 21, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings

Staff: Teri Van Huss

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

CALFIRE: David Shy, Paul Marquez, Aldo Gonzalez

Monache High School (Envirothon): Grant Wagner, students: Madison Meredith, Elizabeth Jacobs, Drew Berra, Ferrin Balouch

NRCS: Genett Carstensen

Meeting called to order at 12:29 by Tom Daly

Envirothon: Monache teacher Grant Wagner reflected on their 3-year affiliation with the RCD! He wants to bring us up to speed about Range Camp, the Forestry Challenge, and this year's Envirothon. He asked each student to introduce themselves and explain what they have done and what they would like to do for this year's Envirothon and Range Camp.

Elizabeth – Senior, will be going to UC Davis, will play water polo. The last Range Camp she received an award about plant identification. A few weeks ago she went to Oklahoma City for the National/International competition. Wrote paper about the need for fire/controlled burns. She place 6th overall – in the nation!. Her brother went two years ago. Austin Kittrell also went to Range Camp, and appreciated the experience.

Madison Meredith, Sophomore, wants to be a hydrologist. Went to the California Forestry Challenge at SCICON. Two groups went from Monache for three days. Saw a masticator. Learned about plant identification. Third day had to give a presentation on conserving the sequoias at Mtn Home through prescribed fire. Her group placed first.

Drew Berra – learned a lot about the tools, presented on clearing and burning. Learned about basal square footage and how to take care of the forest.

Grant's comments were that his kids were well above their comfort level, but loved to learn and want to go back to the next year. The California Forestry Challenge has more competitions more north in the state – this was the first one at sequoia. Grant has emphasized "soft" business skills – the eye contact, shaking hands, making conversation, speaking in public. They are also looking for inservice/community service opportunities in rangeland management. Envirothon is in Oakhurst, April 17 to 19th. He has at least one team, perhaps two teams.

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Ferin Balouch, sophomore, just started in the environmental science academy this year, and would like to go to Range Camp.

Public Meeting for Johnsondale FB: At 1:00 the public hearing was called to order. There have been no public requests for information for the materials here at the office and there were no publics at the meeting.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 1/9/13, Stan moved, Warren seconded. Aye vote ensued.

CALFIRE: Paul Marquez – new Unit Fire Chief, is looking forward to continuing the relationship with the RCD and our assistance with their fuel modification programs. He is encouraging groups like Monache to come up to Mtn Home State Forest. Tom reports our appreciation for contracting with the water truck, and Paul responded favorably to the availability of it.

Financial Report: Teri presented a check run report through January 9th that includes an Accounts Payable list for approval, and a list of Accounts Receivable, thus giving a total cash update. Teri inquired about the ARB permit form that was returned for more fees, the SJAQPCD said no, we owed the registration fee. Warren moved, Stan seconded, the financial report be approved. Aye vote ensued.

Project Updates

Project updates were given by Bob Puls, reflecting his knowledge, in addition to information provided to him by Project Manager David Witt.

- Mountain Home Fuel Break project – Done for the winter.
- Ponderosa Fuel Break project – Done for the winter.
- Johnsondale Fuel Break project – The CEQA document has been completed. CALFIRE needs to be notified of Johnsondale FB, also the County Fire Dept., and the Forest Service, County Planners, CHP – we will send it to the Clearing House.
- SNC Mtn Home Project – Awarded as of November 1st, but there's too much snow to start now.
- Y/S RC&D CHIP program – Bob, David. Inquiry from folks in Three Rivers, Bob will be working with them to get a program set up. David Shy says it might be a good idea to include the FSC and CALFIRE in a community demonstration project.
- CA DF&G grazing. Communication from appraiser regarding addition of 350 acres to Canebrake.
- People's Gardens – Rec'd \$500 from Bank of Sierra. Submitted CDF Urban Forest proposal for "Trees that Feed", should know by March. Seed saving event at Visalia Farmer's Market. Pixley garden assistance. Farm2School grant RFPs

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are back – can we apply? Meeting with Mae Stevens from Rotary Foundation.
We've been donated a good walk-behind rototiller.

- Fire Safe Council – include the FSC in the effort in Three Rivers.
- Board Director search.

Correspondence:

NRCS Report: Joe Williams will be here on Monday, Feb. 25th.

Public Comment Period: No public comment.

Meeting adjourned at p.m.

March meeting on

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss